

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-11 AID-05 SSM-03 /084 W

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R 201230Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6338

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 910

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, PN, XK, XR

SUBJ: SYRIA AND PANAMA ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

REF: PANAMA 1258 (NOTAL)

1. SYRIAN PRESS FEB 17 REPORTED AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN SYRIA AND PANAMA TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS, INITIATIVE ORIGINATED WITH PANAMANIAN, WHO HAVE REGIONAL EMBASSY IN CAIRO AND MISSION IN BEIRUT. PANAMANIAN DESIRE TO EXPAND TIES WITH ARAB STATES IN ORDER TO CULTIVATE SUPPORT FOR PANAMA CANAL ISSUE COINCIDED WITH RENEWED SYRIAN INTEREST IN ELICITING FURTHER LATIN AMERICAN ADHERENCE TO MIDDLE EAST ISSUE, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL. IN ADDITION, BOTH STATES WERE ACTIVE
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MEMBERS OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. HE NOTED THAT

SARG ALREADY REPRESENTED AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IN ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE, CUBA AND VENEZUELA, AND HAD NUMEROUS MISSIONS SPREAD THROUGHOUT SOUTH AMERICA. HE ADDED THAT SARG CONSIDERING ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES IN MEXICO AND PERU. PANAMANIAN-SYRIAN TALKS WERE CONCLUDED AT UN, HE STATED, AND REMINDED EMBOFF THAT PANAMA PRESENTLY SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER AND HAD SUPPORTED SYRIAN EFFORTS DURING JANUARY ME DEBATE.

2. ASKED WHETHER SYRIA INTENDED EXPAND ITS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, OFFICIAL SAID THEIR TRADITIONAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL WAS DEFLECTING SARG INTEREST AT PRESENT. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED LINGERING ARAB MEMORY OF "DECISIVE" GUATEMALAN VOTE IN FAVOR OF 1947 PALESTINE PARTITION RESOLUTION, WHICH HE ASSERTED, ACCOUNTED FOR NON-RESPONSIVENESS OF ARAB STATES -- WITH EXCEPTION OF LIBYA -- TO PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF RECENT EARTHQUAKE TRAGEDY IN GUATEMALA.
MURPHY

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